

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9083

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TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 8 (C-OB 91/6)

1. FIRST ITEM RE PLANS FOR LEGAL MEETINGS (CWP 6527) WAS NEARLY DISASTER BECAUSE OF FRANCE'S ADAMACY AND INTERVENTIONS EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOISE AND SONIC BOOM. HE PROPOSED THAT FEBRUARY DATES RECOMMENDED IN WORKING PAPER FOR LEGAL COMMITTEE BE UTILIZED FOR SUBCOMMITTEE, WITH LEGAL CTE BEING MOVED BACK TO APRIL/MAY DATES. UNFORTUNATELY THIS GAVE OPPORTUNITY TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT HIM FOR ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REASON (THAT AFRICAN DELS TO WORLD-WIDE MEETINGS ARE NOT EQUIPPED FOR MONTREAL WINTERS). USREP HAD TO LEAD THE OPPOSITION TO THIS RE-ARRANGEMENT BASED ON FACT THAT APRIL-MAY LEGAL COMMITTEE WAS TOO LATE TO SEND THE ONLY AGENDA ITEM (LEASE, CHARTER AND INTERCHANGE) TO DIPCONF SET FOR SEPTEMBER. ICAO PROCEDURES RE DRAFT CONVENTIONS (BASIC DOC 7669-LC/139/2, PAGE 3) REQUIRED DIPCONF BE NOT LESS THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER TRANSMISSION OF DRAFT MATERIAL. FYI: USREP CONFIRMED WITH FRANCE AND OTHERS THAT THE INTENT WAS NOT TO SIDE-TRACK LEASE, CHARTER AND INTERCHANGE MATERIAL, BUT SIMPLY TO GIVE PRIORITY AND IMPORTANCE TO NOISE AND SONIC BOOM QUESTION. END FYI COUNCIL MEMBERS BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT PROCEDURAL CONFUSION AND DETERMINED (A) THAT DIPCONF

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SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, AND; (B) THAT LEGAL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SCHEDULED SO THAT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS COULD GO TO DIPCONF; WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO SERIOUS ATTACK ON FRENCH POSITION. IN EXASPERATION FRANCE "GAVE UP" AND ULTIMATELY WITHDREW PROPOSAL AND PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DEBATE. SINCE THERE WAS NO PROPOSAL ON THE FLOOR THE CLOSURE OF DEBATE WAS NOT APPROPRIATE BUT COUNCIL VOTED IT NONETHELESS (22 (US)/

1 (NIGERIA, FOR GOOD REASONS)/2 ABSTENTIONS). US AND MEXICO THEN INSISTED ON CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURE WHICH DROVE FRANCE TO PROPOSE ACTION ORIGINALLY SET FORTH IN WORKING PAPER PARA 11. THIS WAS APPROVED 18 (US) FOR/5 AGAINST (NIGERIA, EAST AFRICA, GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, EGYPT)/4 ABSTENTIONS. FYI: STATEMENTS RE NEGATIVE VOTES AND ABSTENTIONS MADE IT CLEAR THEY WERE AN EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH PROCEDURE PRIMARILY. END FYI

2. COUNCIL DECISION WAS FOR LEGAL CTE IN MONTREAL FEB. 8-28, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT CONCLUSION WOULD BE SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER LIKE 23), AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON NOISE AND SONIC BOOM 18 APRIL-3 MAY, WITH CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE REQUIRED. TWICE DURING DISCUSSIONS CONFIRMATION WAS REQUESTED AND GIVEN THAT APRIL MEETING WILL NOT REPEAT NOT CONFLICT WITH AWO DIVISION (MLS) TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 4-22 APRIL.

3. ALTHOUGH US HAD TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS HARD WAY, IN OPINION OF USREP, COUNCIL DECISIONS ARE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL TO US GOALS: (A) PRIORITY FOR LEASE, CHARTER AND INTERCHANGE WHICH GOES DIRECTLY TO LEGAL COMMITTEE AND INTO DIPCONF (TOGETHER WITH MATERIAL ALREADY MATURE FOR REVISION ROME CONVENTION); (B) EASIER AND LONGER RANGE SCHEDULING FOR NEW AND DIFFICULT WORK NOISE AND SONIC BOOM; (C) MINIMIZING OF LEGAL CTE MEETINGS WHICH COUNCIL CLEARLY FAVORS. HARPER

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Decaption Note:
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